

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1152

UNCLAS JIDDA 3250

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC

SUBJECT: INTERIM STAFFING OF USREP OFFICE RIYADH

REFS: A. STATE 103293, B. JIDDA 3177

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED PROPOSAL REF (A) WITH COMMISSION OFFICE RIYADH, WHICH AGREES THAT ASSIGNMENT OF NUMEROUS SHORT-TERM TDY PERSONNEL TO RIYADH OVER SUMMER WOULD NOT HELP ACCOMPLISH DESIRED GOALS. SUCH PERSONNEL WOULD HAVE TO SPEND TOO MUCH TIME GETTING THEIR FEET ON GROUND AND SUPPORTING EACH OTHER TO BE TRULY EFFECTIVE. WE CONCLUDE, ON OTHER HAND, THAT CERTAIN OF THE ASSIGNMENTS WOULD BE USEFUL, AND THESE WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENDORSE:

A. MOSER. GIVEN THAT IT APPEARS QUITE LIKELY THAT LARGE AGRICULTURAL TEAM WILL BEGIN ARRIVING EARLY JUNE, MOSER'S PRESENCE PROBABLY WOULD BE QUITE USEFUL. IN ADDITION, HE COULD BRING WITH HIM INITIAL OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS, AS WELL AS LATEST INFORMATION AND STATUS REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS. WE WOULD SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT HIS ARRIVAL BE COORDINATED WITH ARRIVAL OF AG TEAM. PERHAPS WOULD BE BEST IF HE COULD PLAN ARRIVE APPROX ONE WEEK BEFORE FIRST AG TEAM MEMBERS.

B. HAPPEL. TWO WEEK VISIT TO ADVISE ON LEGAL MATTERS, ESP AS SEEN FROM WASHINGTON PERSPECTIVE, PROBABLY WOULD BE USEFUL AT ANY TIME DURING JUNE OR EARLY JULY, AND THUS MIGHT BE SCHEDULED AT HAPPEL'S

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CONVENIENCE.

C. VISNICK. EARLY VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVE OF CONTROLLER'S OFFICE PROBABLY ESSENTIAL. SUGGEST VISIT BE EXTENDED TO THREE WEEKS.

D. JAYES. WE NOTE HAYES TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FULL TWO AND HALF MONTHS. THIS TIME SUFFICIENTLY LONG TO ENABLE HIM EFFECTIVELY PROVIDE WORTH-WHILE ASSISTANCE. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, WOULD ALSO PROVIDE COVERAGE DURING ABSENCES ON R & R OF MCARTHUR (TENTATIVELY EARLY AND MID AUGUST) AND ZEIGLER (TENTATIVELY LATE AUGUST AND EARLY SEPTEMBER).

E. BOWDEN, OF COURSE BOWDEN WELCOME AT ANY TIME.

2. ABOVE NAMED PERSONS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT, PROVIDED AUTHORITY RECEIVED SOON TO BEGIN ENGAGING PERMANENT STAFF. IT ESSENTIAL THAT LOCAL-HIRE POSITIONS OF TRAVEL ASST, GSO ASST, AND MESSENGER-DRIVER BE FILLED IMMEDIATELY. FURTHER, WE SEE NO REASON TO DELAY ASSIGNMENT OF FSS GERALDINE BERNIER TO POSITION OF COMMISSION SECRETARY. PENDING COMPLETION SETTING UP OF OFFICE VILLA SHE COULD WORK EITHER IN HER HOME OR IN SPACE WHICH CAN BE PROVIDED FOR HER IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER.

3. WITH THESE FOUR POSITIONS FILLED, PLUS AUTHORITY TO PROCEED ON SUBJECTS MENTIONED PARAS THREE THROUGH SEVEN IN JIDDA REF, PLUS ASSISTANCE OF THOSE MENTIONED PARA TWO ABOVE, PLUS A HEAVY DOLLOP OF UNDERSTANDING NAD SUPPORT FROM WASHINGTON, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH GOALS GIVEN PARA ONE STATE REF.
AKINS

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